

Bulldogs Sweep PCL Track Titles

Putnam County Sentinel – Charlie Warnimont – May 8, 2019

Columbus Grove continued its domination of the Putnam County League Track and Field Meet Friday night at Ottoville's Bob Caple Track.

While the Bulldogs claimed the team titles, the highlight of the night belonged to Kalida senior Josh Verhoff.

Verhoff broke the two-decade old record in the 100 dash and made a run at the record in the 200 dash as he finished the night with four wins overall, including a pair of relay wins.

Columbus Grove scored nine wins with several double placements as they finished with 165 points for their ninth straight PCL title. Pandora-Gilboa finished second with 117 points and Kalida was third with 107 points.

On a cool, damp, windy evening in Ottoville, Verhoff got his night off to a solid start by breaking the PCL record in the 100-dash running a 10.78 into a slight head wind. His time broke the 1987 record of 10.9 by Columbus Grove's Jim Thompson.

Verhoff ended his night by winning the 200 in 22.40.

In between, he joined Trevor Vorst, Grant Laudick and Connor Krouse to win the 4x200 relay in 1:33.81 and he joined Vorst, Laudick and Brad Siefker to win the 4x100 (44.66). Both of those times were just off the county records of 44.2 for the 400 Relay and 1:33.8 for the 800 relays.

"Coming in I just wanted to run my best and see if I could get it (the 100 record)," Verhoff said. "It was an exciting time. There is a little bit of wind, so you just have to stay low and drive a little farther. The head wind affects me a little bit as I'm not one of those bigger, bulky sprinters, so I feel more aerodynamic. The 200 was not one of my better times, but I still got first, so it's all good."

"We got here early as coach wanted us to get a couple of practice hand-offs in. They were looking a little rough and we made some changes and they look good. We need to keep working on our hand-offs as we are getting ready for the post-season.

Laudick won the 400 dash for Kalida in 51.75.

Columbus Grove's boys team won four field events and all four distance events to help themselves to another PCL title.

Zeke Halker won the high just as he cleared 5-10 and Evan Hopkins won the pole vault clearing 12-0. Ethan Halker won the discuss with a throw of 148-0 and Hunter Roethlisberger won the shot put with a throw of 49.3.

On the track, the Bulldogs won the 4x800 relay in 8:39.18 with the team of Jordan Bellman, Carson Closson, Ezra Jones and Caleb Stechschulte. Stechschulte later won the 1600-meter run in 4:46.56 and Closson the 3200-meter run in 10:22.53. Breece Pingle won the 800-meter run in 2:07.0.

Gabe Clement, Deuce Alt, Dane Selby and Caden Watkins won the 4x400 relay in 3:39.25 to finish the meet.

"Our goal was to get better. We came into his meet and said we had to get better, which we have done all year," Columbus Grove coach Chris Grothaus said. "The meet ran fast, there weren't a lot of breaks and I'm looking at some of the times and I was really pleased, especially our 4x4 as they ran their best time. It was a team effort. Our goal is to continually get better and we did."

Travis Maag won both hurdle events for runner up Pandora-Gilboa as he took the 110 high hurdles in 15.99 and the 300 hurdles in 41.40. Bryce Basinger won the long jump with a leap of 19-11½.

SUMMARY

(1) Columbus Grove 165 (2) Pandora-Gilboa 117 (3) Kalida 107 (4) Ottoville 59 (5) Leipsic 52 (6) Continental 40 (7) Fort Jennings 26 and (8) Miller City

SHOT PUT – Hunter Roethlisberger (CG) 49'3.0"

DISCUS – Ethan Halker (CG) 148.0"

HIGH JUMP – Zeke Halker (CG) 5'10"

LONG JUMP – Bryce Basinger (PG) 19'11½"

POLE VAULT – Evan Hopkins/Gabe Clement (CG) 12'0"

110 METER HIGH HURDLES – Travis Maag (PG) 15.99

300 M. INTERMED HURDLES – Travis Maag (PG) 41.40

*NR 100 METER DASH – Josh Verhoff (K) 10.78

200 METER DASH – Josh Verhoff (K) 22.40

400 METER DASH – Grant Laudick, (K) 51.75

800 METER RUN – Breece Pingle (CG) 2:07.00

1600 METER RUN – Caleb Stechschulte (CG) 4:46.56

3200 METER RUN – Carson Closson (CG) 10:22.53

4x100 METER RELAY – Trevor Vorst, Grant Laudick, Siefker and Josh Verhoff (K) 44.66

4x200 METER RELAY – Trevor Vorst, Grant Laudick, Connor Krouse and Josh Verhoff (K) 1:33.81

4x400 METER RELAY – Gabe Clement, Deuce Alt, Dane Selby and Caden Watkins (CG) 3:39.25

4x800 METER RELAY – Jordan Bellman, Carson Closson, Ezra Jones and Caleb Stechschulte (CG) 8:39.18